

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07169 212052Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5308

S E C R E T CAIRO 7169

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, EG, SY, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE FORD-ASSAD MEETING

1. THERE WAS NO CHANCE LAST NIGHT TO TELL PRESIDENT SADAT ABOUT A POSSIBLE FORD-ASSAD MEETING IN VIENNA LATER THIS WEEK, BUT I WAS ABLE TO DO SO THIS EVENING. I RECALLED KHADDAM HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST

IN SUCH A MEETING WHEN RECENTLY IN THE US AND HAD BEEN TOLD ONE MIGHT BE ARRANGED THE NEXT TIME PRESIDENT FORD VISITED EUROPE WITH SUCH A TRIP NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN THIS COMING WEEKEND, WE HAD SENT WORD TO ASSAD APOLOGIZING FOR THE LATE NOTICE, BUT INDICATING THAT IF THE SYRIAN PRESIDENT WANTED SUCH A MEETING, WE WOULD TRY TO ARRANGE ONE IN VIENNA AT THE BEGINNING OF PRESIDENT FORD'S TRIP. ALTERNATIVELY, IF THE NOTICE IS TOO LATE TO ENABLE ASSAD TO COME TO VIENNA, WE HAD ASKED WHETHER ASSAD PLANNED TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING UNGA SESSION. IF SO, A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD COULD BE ARRANGED AT THAT TIME. WE RATHER THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE TOO LATE FOR ASSAD TO COME TO VIENNA. WHILE I DID NOT KNOW IF ANY ANSWER HAS YET BEEN RECEIVED, YOU WISHED PRESIDENT SADAT TO KNOW OF THIS MESSAGE.

2. SADAT THANKED ME FOR THE INFORMATION. HE SAID HE WAS ALREADY AWARE THROUGH HIS OWN SOURCES OF ASSAD'S DESIRE TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT FORD, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE SALZBURG SUMMIT. WE COULD BE SURE, THE PRESIDENT LAUGHINGLY OBSERVED, THAT ASSAD WILL JUMP

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AT THE OPPORTUNITY.

3. SADAT WAS VERY RELAXED ABOUT THE WHOLE MATTER AND A BIT AMUSED
AT WHAT HE OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERS SYRIAN IMPORTUNING FOR THE STATUS
SYMBOL OF SUCH A SUMMIT.
EILTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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